

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, August 21. 1711.

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**I** Think this War between the *Turks* and the *Muscovites*, as the King of *Sweden* is concern'd in it, has the oddest aspect that any War in our Age has had; for let it go which Way it will, it may be fatal to the Peace of *Europe*, and particularly to the Protestant Interest; and I do not see how it can be otherwise; I'll put it either Way, without Fear or Favour of any; if private Persons think themselves offended in my Treating the Interest they favour, the Fault is theirs, not mine.

I have no disrespect for the Person of the King of *Sweden*, however, I think his Actions have not at all Corresponded, (reckon-

ing from the cruel Execution of General *Pskull* to this Time) with the Character I had form'd of him in my Thoughts; his omitting to take hold of that glorious Opportunity he had while he lay in *Saxony*, of putting an End to the Wars of *Europe*, and making himself be, as his Father was, the Great Arbiter of *Europe's* Peace — His suffering in the *Palta Convenia* of King *Stanislaus*, the Exclusive Article against the Protestants in *Poland*, his pursuing the *Poles* and *Muscovites* to such Extremity, refusing all Mediation, and declaring to Depose and Dispossess both; his Temerity, his Obstinacy, and in General *Pskull's* Case, his inexo-

inexorable Cruelty, chang'd the great Opinion I had once Entertain'd, so this — That I believ'd him a Prince whose Temper would be fatal to himself, or to all Europe; and that he was a Prince of a Temper which God would correct; and I think both have prov'd just.

If it be thought Arrogant to mention my Opinion of a Person so distinguish'd by Heaven, as his *Swedish* Majesty is, I answer, It is not in disrespect to his Person or Character; but as I am at Liberty to speak my own Opinion of every Thing, with more safety than to say it is the general Opinion, tho' it really may be so, I choose this Way of speaking, with respect to my own Safety in this, as well as in all like Cases, when I am oblig'd to speak of Kings, Queens, Parliaments, Governments, &c. And this I hope may be Satisfactory to those, that would otherwise charge me with Arrogance in this Case.

This premis'd I am to tell you that however I may think his *Swedish* Majesty has Acted, and tho' I do not so much as wish him Success, in his Invasive Wars against the *Pole* and *Muscovite* — So on the other Hand it appears, at least it seems to me to appear, that no Protestant, who has any Concern upon him for the present State of Europe's Liberty, or for the general Interest of Religion in Christendom, can wish to see the *Swedish* Power in the least Impair'd, or his Country Invaded, I mean his Hereditary Dominions, either by the *Dane*, the *Pole*, or the *Muscovite*.

I'll give a few Reasons, respecting these Powers in Particular, and one in General.

I cannot wish the *Dane* Success, neither do I believe his Attempt will prosper.

The first, Because the Safety of the Commerce of the *Baltick*, in which the *British* and *Dutch* Nations have a great Concern, consists in the keeping a due Balance between the two Northern Crowns; If either of which should

possess the whole, he would be able too much to Influence the Maritime Affairs of this part of the World.

The last, Because (I think, for I am still but speaking my Opinion) the Quarrel of the *Dane* against the *Swede* is the most unjust in itself, and has the weakest Foundation of any that ever I saw begun in Europe; nor did I ever hear of any Reason given for it, but the Opportunity, which, I think, is the most base and dishonourable that can be given; If there are other Reasons, I shall own them when I meet with them.

Again, I cannot wish the *Muscovite* Success against the *Swede*, because that growing Prince, may once become formidable to Europe, and I look upon the *Swedes* to be the great Barrier against any Attempts, the future Race of so great and encroaching a Monarch may make upon Europe; let the *Muscovite* grow as great Eastward and Southward as he will, I shall always wish him Victory against the *Turks*, but *Sweden* is the wrong side for us to have the *Muscovite* Encrease upon — And were we at Peace with the rest of Europe, England and Holland would certainly think it to be of the last Consequence to assist the *Swede*, and keep the *Muscovites* out of the *Baltick-Sea*.

On the other Hand, I cannot wish the *Pole* Success against *Sweden*, purely because that Success is in aid of the two former Princes, who strive to oppress the *Swedes*, and which would make Way for that Conquest, which (as above) would be so fatal to the rest of Europe.

The general Reason why it is not our Interest to see the *Swedes* oppress'd, is because the Possessions the *Swedes* have in Germany, and the Weight they bear in the Balance of the Empire, has once been, and still is the great Security of the Protestant Interest in Germany, without which, it was once brought to the brink of Ruin, under the Emperor Ferdinand II: and without which, as often as the *Papist* Powers think fit to Unite, it may be trampled under their

Feet



Feet again, and reduc'd to the same Condition it was in before.

It was this Power of Popery and Tyranny, that the great *Gustavus Adolphus* came into *Germany* to deliver them from, and which he over-run in two Years and a half, then Sealing the Liberty and Religion of the *German* Nation with his Blood ; in all the Process of that War, after that Glorious Prince was slain at the great Battle of *Lutzen*, still the *Swedish* Power was the Relief, the Refuge, the last Resort of the Protestants — The War held from the Year 1632, to 1648, when the *German* Liberty and the Protestant Interest were together Established, in the Famous Treaty of *Munster*, or by some call'd the Treaty of *Westphalia* — This Treaty restor'd the Peace of the Empire, adjust'd the Limits of every Prince, Power, and State, concern'd in that long and Bloody War, and it is observable, that every Difference which happens in the World since that Time, when it comes to be Debated, turns upon the Foot of the Treaty of *Westphalia* ; no Disputes look farther back than this ; no Breaches are made, but they are first Debated by this Test — Of this Treaty the *Swedes* are Guarantees, as it was by their Power, at the Price of their Blood, and by their Valour, that this Peace was obtain'd.

To enable the *Swedes* to be effectual Guarantees of this Treaty, as well as for a Reward of their long Hazards, vast Expence, and vigorous Conduct, the *Ducate*, *Pomerania*, the Isle of *Rügen*, the Cities of *Stralsund* and *Wismar*, with the Dutchy of *Bremen*, and other Territories in *Germany*, were adjudg'd to the *Swedes* — Without this Power put into the Hands of the *Swedes*, his Guarantee had been an empty Title, without a Hand to guide it — And whenever you suffer this Power to be taken from the *Swede*, you take off that Restraint from the Emperor, which has always preserv'd that Treaty, and kept back the Hand of Oppression from the Encroachments they would have made.

That this has been such a Restraint, has been evident on many Occasions, and it would require more Room than this Paper allows me, to give you the Particulars, in which the Empire had fallen into the like Disorders, if this Powerful Guarantee had not been in the Way — The *Swede* has ever since been a Bridle and a Terror to the House of *Austria*, and his Dominions in the Empire are the only Things that make them so : It was by Virtue of this Guarantee, that the Emperor was reduc'd to restore the Protestants in *Silesia*, and it was on the Foot of this Treaty, that the King of *Sweden* demanded it.

For this Reason it is evident, that let the Errors and Mistakes of the King of *Sweden*, as to his Foreign Wars, be what they will, yet as to his Hereditary Dominions, especially in *Germany*, whenever you suffer them to be taken away, you take away the great Prop and Support of the Protestant Interest on that side of the World.

These were the Considerations which caus'd his late Majesty King *William*, with the States of *Holland*, to hold the Hands of the *Dane*, when in the Infancy of this King, they would have fallen upon the *Swedes* ; sending Sir *George Rook* with a Squadron to join the *Swedish* Fleet, Land the *Swedes* in the Isle of *Seeland* near *Copenhagen*, and oblige the *Danes* to a Peace : These were the Reasons why the Princes of *Lunenburg* March'd their Army to protect *Holstein*, and made the Treaty of *Travendale* ; and these are the Reasons why the Neutrality for the Empire was Projected in *Holland*, upon the late reviving the War between the *Swedes* and the *Danes* ; and why the *Dutch* refuse to King *Augustus* the Command of the Army, now call'd the Neutrality Army ; and these Reasons hold good, why the Confederate Powers, especially the Protestants, are concern'd, by no means to suffer *Pomerania* to be taken from the *Swedes*.

E R R A -

## ERRATA.

REVIEW N<sup>o</sup>. 63. Pag. 243. Col. 1.  
Line 9. for in Time r. in Tune; ibid.  
Line 15. dele of; pag. 254. col. 1. l. 20.

for 10 r. are; l. 1b. for Discourd r. Disford;  
ib. l. 31. for guest r. gust; ib. l. 37. for pre-  
par'd for, r. prepar'd them for; p. 255. col.  
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